

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# Extension Service REVIEW

**SEPTEMBER  
1940**

1  
9-18-92  
264  
202

The highest  
conception  
of a nation  
is that it  
is a trustee  
for posterity.

JAMES J. HILL



**VOL. 11 — NO. 9**



# AN Editorial

## The Test of Civilization

REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director of Extension Work

■ What is the test of civilization? Old World orders are changing. Our own defense plans rapidly take shape. How can the measure of a country and its people be gaged? Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops—no but the kind of man the country turns out." If the test of civilization is in its men and women one point on which a defense program must focus is youth, men and women in the making. There are in this country almost 10 million rural young people between the ages of 18 and 25 years. They are potential citizens of the kind who can make or break our civilization.

Nearly one million and a half of these rural young people are in 4-H Clubs. Regularly they pledge "My head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, and my country." Can the requirements for an effective home-defense program be stated any clearer and better than that? Here is the framework for rallying rural youth to the standard of service for their country. This framework is supplied with 150,000 leaders—farm men and women known in their own communities for their skill in agriculture, homemaking, and community welfare. Here is a nucleus for a far more intensive educational effort in support of a national defense program than has yet been made.

In the light of defense needs, every one of the 80,000 4-H Clubs can well rededicate its program to the familiar 4-H's. Every extension worker can scrutinize the 4-H Club program for the year to seek out and to emphasize those features which contribute most to the 4-H's and to a strong defense program. Having done this, they must go further and seek ways and means of bringing all rural young people into contact with the 4-H Club program. It is now reaching 45 percent of the young folks; but, to be fully effective in maintaining morale and an adequate standard of living, it needs to reach all of them.

Among the activities which contribute much to developing a strong and unified

nation are those which help club members to understand the situation facing the country. There are many social and economic adjustments required by existing conditions. National programs have been designed to facilitate these adjustments. These are things of which 4-H Club members should have understanding and think clearly about. They should have the opportunity to learn and to talk over together in the light of their own farm and community experience such problems as soil erosion, tenancy, rural poverty, migrant labor, and agricultural surpluses. They should begin to understand and to see the relationship between such problems and the maintenance of national defense.

### To Greater Loyalty

Through the years the 4-H Clubs have built ideals of citizenship and standards of loyalty which can contribute greatly to an effective defense program if extended to more young people. The new voters among the 4-H Club members attending the national 4-H Club camp took part in a citizenship ceremony where a pledge was made which well expresses the 4-H Club call to greater loyalty. They pledged, individually and collectively, "from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation—to never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens—to strive for intellectual honesty—to obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men—to strive for individual perfection and for social betterment—to devote our talent to the improvement of our homes and our communities, in their recreational, social, and spiritual needs, to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us." What 4-H Club activities will help the young folks to carry on this pledge? These are the activities on which 4-H Clubs must concentrate.

Perhaps 4-H Club work has been strongest in training the hands to greater skill.

Recent tabulations of the 1939 reports show a tremendous output in food production with more than 1 million bushels of garden produce grown and more than 1 million jars of food preserved according to the latest methods. More than 65,000 dairy animals and 5 million birds in poultry flocks are 4-H owned. All of these things are tremendously important in the pattern of national defense. Skill and initiative in the best agricultural methods, in the management of mechanical equipment, in the conservation of natural resources, in efficient and economical home management are good insurance for a strong and resourceful citizenry. If our youth masters these skills, we can hope confidently to maintain living standards and the farm community as the source and bulwark of national strength.

A nation which stands the test must produce strong, vigorous men able to do their share in work and play. The first requisite in national defense and preparedness is physical fitness through correct food and health habits. There is great need for more work on health. Many 4-H activities can emphasize the fundamentals of good health. The large number of 4-H camps are teaching young people the laws of health. These camps could be expanded to meet any health camp needs which seemed desirable for the fuller development of the defense program.

The 4-H theme for the year, selected by leaders and delegates attending the Fourteenth National 4-H Club Camp held in Washington in June was Rural Youth's Responsibilities. These responsibilities are becoming more and more urgent. Young people want responsibility; they want to feel that they are needed. The extent to which they effectively undertake their responsibilities will depend on the leadership and opportunities given them—on the ability of county extension agents to organize their programs so that rural youth can plan and develop local activities which fit into the national pattern of defense. I believe we have in the 4-H Club an organization which can train men who will stand up under Emerson's test for civilization.



## EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

For September 1940 • Lester A. Schlup, Editor

The Extension Service Review is printed with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget as required by Rule 42 of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Published monthly by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business. The REVIEW is issued free by law to workers engaged in extension activities. Others may obtain copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy or by subscription at 75 cents a year, domestic, and \$1.15, foreign. Postage stamps are not acceptable in payment.

EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

# 4-H Better-Seed-Corn Project Becomes a Louisiana Industry

■ Every year farmers in Louisiana are asking county agents "Where can I get the best seed corn that you believe is most reliable?" The usual answer is "You had better get some of the Rapides Parish 4-H corn."

This State-wide attitude of the Louisiana extension workers is not based on opinion, for the 4-H seed-corn program of Rapides Parish has developed into an industry that brings to the farmers an annual income of more than \$50,000.

Under the leadership of Assistant County Agent B. W. Baker, the work has progressed in a systematic way since 1923, when, for the first time, all 21 corn-club boys enrolled that year agreed to plant only purebred seed on their acre projects. Each boy also grew some kind of legume in his corn. All the boys successfully carried out their projects. The "champion" produced 123 bushels on his acre plot, and the work attracted much attention.

Since then, hundred-bushel yields have become common in the 4-H corn clubs of Rapides Parish; and the fact that the club members have greatly improved the quality of their corn has been established by their consistently high winnings at the Louisiana State fairs. A Rapides Parish corn-club member has exhibited the champion 10 ears of corn at 7 out of the last 8 State 4-H shows.

"Before the development of this project in the parish we found it very difficult to procure good seed corn," said Mr. Baker. "Many times we paid high prices for seed corn, only to be disappointed in both the yield and the quality of the corn grown from the seed purchased. As an agent, I desired to see the 4-H corn-club boys of this parish exhibit winning samples of corn at the State fairs; however, it seemed impossible for us to exhibit winners from the seed available. With the help of the extension agronomist, club members purchased the very best seed available of the varieties recommended for their section and set out in a systematic way to improve the quality and increase the yield by careful field selection and hand-picking of all seed stock."

By 1926 a systematic plan for seed-corn production was under way with a small group

of 4-H members. The next year 70 corn-club members enrolled, and 40 of them reported 2,328 bushels of corn harvested from 45 acres—averaging 51.7 bushels per acre as compared with the average parish production of 20 bushels. The highest 4-H yield was 94 bushels per acre. During the succeeding 2 years the 4-H corn clubs grew in membership, yields increased per acre, and corn champions increased in number. In 1930, 6 members reported yields of more than 100 bushels per acre.

"By the selection of seed ears from the stalks that showed an inherent tendency to produce heavily without any undue advantage, this 13-year program in field selection has given an average increase in yield of 18 bushels per acre over corn grown from unselected seed," says Mr. Baker. In addition to good seed, proper fertilization and shallow cultivation have been contributing factors to the success of the corn program.

Interest in the 4-H corn-club activities spread as farmers visited the convincing demonstration plots. Soon the parish farmers began buying the 4-H seed corn. By 1931, orders for seed corn were received from other

Louisiana parishes. The following year, the Rapides 4-H Club boys and a few cooperating farmers sold 300 bushels of 4-H seed corn through the Louisiana Farm Bureau and locally at very satisfactory prices. Since then, the seed-corn sales have rapidly increased each year, until Rapides Parish has become the State's major source of supply of good seed corn. Each season, before the price agreement is reached, samples of all seed corn to be offered for sale are submitted to the State seed laboratory for official germination tests. Last year the samples ran from 90 to 100 percent strong germination and 100 percent pure.

A State Certified Seed Growers' Association was organized by the Louisiana Growers 4 years ago. Rapides Parish has the majority of the foundation stock certified seed-corn growers of the State. Since 1934, the local seed companies of Alexandria, La., have been handling the certified seed corn; and their business has continued to increase at an enormous rate, says Mr. Baker. More than 40,000 bushels of seed corn were sold by the Alexandria stores last year, and this year's sales approximate 45,000 bushels.

Two capable 4-H Club boys do all the field selection of corn on the largest plantation in the parish, a plantation of 3,000 acres. Reading from left to right are Assistant County Agent B. W. Baker, George Swain, and Roy Smith, 4-H Club members, and Valley Pharis, plantation manager.





# Handicraft Goes Native in Tennessee



Craftsmen in farm homes are working with aluminum, silver, honeysuckle vines, split white oak, shucks, and apple wood. Scarlett and Mammy make their appearance in the shuck-doll family, and in the right foreground of this display is the boastful Little Red Fox.

■ Handicraft is a Tennessee "cash crop" that makes use of everything from tiny pine burrs to honeysuckle vines. By braiding shucks into quaint hats, making pine burrs into boutonnieres and other articles of ornament for milady, and fashioning old-timey utensils from gourds and pods, one group of 78 producers has marketed nearly \$13,000 worth of native craft during recent years.

Last year, 151 people reported sales of handicraft amounting to \$7,400. These articles went to 29 States and Old Mexico. In addition, 327 people made 4,693 gifts valued at \$2,774 and 4,307 articles for their homes valued at \$12,765.

Special-day markets at which local women display and sell their crafts are being urged by Isadora Williams, assistant marketing specialist. More than \$500 was taken in at

seven of these markets held in different Tennessee towns last year. This spring five special Easter markets netted \$565.

Special State-wide markets are also being encouraged. The first of these was held during Farm Women's Week on the University of Tennessee campus, July 30 to August 4, 1934, at which time \$56 worth of articles from 9 counties were sold. The special Farm Women's Week market was repeated in 1938 when 39 people from 16 counties sold \$91 worth of articles.

The first big special market was held in connection with the American Farm Bureau Federation in Nashville, December 10 to 12, 1934. Here 4,198 articles from 25 counties were exhibited, and 1,394 articles sold for a total of \$500.60. Delegates were in attendance from all over the United States.

A special display in connection with the

National Amra Grotto meeting at Knoxville, June 17 to 20, 1935, attracted the attention of the Southern Highlanders, Inc., a cooperative marketing association with headquarters in Norris, Tenn., and New York City. Since that time, substantial sales have been made through that agency.

Other special markets included one at Rockefeller Center, New York City, in cooperation with the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, November-December 1935, and another at the Southern Agricultural Workers' Conference at Nashville, February 3 to 5, 1937.

## *Five-State Market*

A special market for five States (Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia) was held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in connection with the meeting there last spring of the Southern Handicraft Guild, March 4 to 8. In addition to the educational value of this exhibit, sales amounted to \$195.

"At the outset, these special market days were held primarily to advertise our products," Miss Williams said. "They did this so effectively that now we are not always able to supply the demand."

Many families work together, mothers and daughters fashioning articles, and husbands and sons gathering materials. Money earned frequently goes for home improvements—pressure cookers, electric ranges, new rugs, building repairs, and some other things.

Part of the \$446 received by Mrs. A. A. Gentry, Union County, went toward piping water from a nearby spring into her kitchen and purchasing an up-to-date sink with built-in drain boards. "We are selling now with bathroom fixtures and electricity in mind," Mrs. Gentry said.

For those who think of handicraft as amounting to no more than a few dollars to otherwise idle people, Miss Williams cites the receipts last year: Manie Gattton, Carroll County, \$640.72 from hand-woven rugs; Mrs. Ernest Rogers, Hawkins County, \$373.82 from native craft; Mrs. Herbert Payne, Hawkins County, \$314.50 from native craft; Mrs. J. F. Jaynes, Rhea County, \$248.78 from native craft; Mrs. Charles Taylor, Cumberland County, \$213.38 from native craft; Apison Handicraft Center, Hamilton County, \$661.74 from hooked rugs and mats.

Two enterprising older Maury County 4-H Club girls, Mary and Ruth Forehand, sold more than \$150 worth of donkey souvenirs at the annual Columbia, Tenn., Mule Day last spring. These souvenirs were made from shucks and labeled "Queenie" after the democratic donkey brought to Columbia that day by Postmaster General James A. Farley.



# Farm and Home Progress Contest Has Far-Reaching Results

The judges of the 3-year farm and home contest in Iredell County, N. C., recently completed, report that this was one of the most constructive and far-reaching programs ever to be attempted in North Carolina. The contest, under the direction of the county agent, A. R. Morrow, and the home demonstration agent, Annie E. Tucker, was sponsored by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce and was a joint enterprise between those making their living in the country and those making their living in town.

During the 15 years that Mr. Morrow has been in Iredell County, the 5,000 farm families there have made great progress in the acceptance of scientific methods and the adoption of new sources of income. However, he realized that there was a need for more profitable farming if the rural people were to continue to progress. Therefore, in 1937, when he learned that John W. Wallace, president of the Statesville Chamber of Commerce, was looking about for a means of increasing the income of the community, they put their heads together in an effort to solve this problem affecting both the town and the surrounding farming country. It seemed apparent to Mr. Wallace that the people of Statesville were reluctant at that time to make any large investment of capital for industrial expansion; and, unless some other way could be devised to step up the income of the community, things were destined to remain static.

## *How to Add to the Income*

It seemed a recognized fact that a close relationship between agriculture and industry is of prime importance to the continued success of either. Also, it was agreed that the progress of the individual farm is the basis of a successful agriculture, and that some form of accurate record is necessary for the profitable operation of the farm unit. So, together, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Wallace estimated that it was entirely feasible for the average progressive farmer in the county to increase his annual income by \$100 to \$200. This, they figured, would only amount to around 30 cents a day, and might simply mean the production of a few more eggs and chickens, or perhaps a little more milk and butter by each farmer, and would result in a total increase of income for the community that would equal or exceed that of any new enterprise brought in. At the same time, a balanced agricultural program for the county could be emphasized.

Thus was inaugurated the farm and home progress contest. The businessmen of States-

ville at once became interested, and agreed to subscribe to the prizes, which amounted to \$500 for 1937, \$500 for 1938, and \$1,800 for the final year of 1939. As it was perceived that some form of stimulating the farmer's interest in keeping books was essential in quickening agricultural progress, as well as for planning and adjusting enterprises within the farm unit, each participant was required to keep a complete record of farm receipts and expenses, together with related information, for each of the 3 years. Awards in 1937 and 1938 were based on completeness of the records and ability in record-keeping, and in 1939 upon general progress made on the farm and in the home as indicated by records and score cards.

## *Records Are the Basis*

The record was designed to be as simple as possible, showing income and expenses by months, together with beginning inventory and ending inventory, as well as a summary of yearly activities. The score card, although used primarily for the contest, might serve as a pattern for any farm family interested in progress and emphasizing the following: Improvement of net farm income; development of new sources of income; systematic crop rotation; up-to-date fertilizer practices; proper terracing and soil practices; balanced feed and pasture to meet livestock requirements; use of adaptable varieties of crops; purebred poultry and livestock; replacing of work stock; production and preservation of food for the family and feed for livestock; good forest management; attractive, convenient, and livable houses; farm buildings and surroundings; and finally, the participation of the farm family in community activities in order to be efficient farmers and homemakers by keeping up with changing conditions.

Sixteen townships participated in the contest with an original enrollment of 300 farm families, of which 250 completed the first year and 140 the entire 3 years. From this experience, it is now thought that an improved system of organization and contacting at the beginning would prevent many families from dropping out, even though they may continue their interest.

At the end of 1937 and 1938, a prize of \$25 was awarded for the best-kept record book in each township, with a \$100 grand prize for the winner in the county. In 1939, the township winners received \$50 each with three grand prizes of \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, awarded to those scoring highest in all the points set forth on the score card.

These, with a tie in two townships, made 21 prizes in all.

The average net cash income of the 21 winners in the contest was 78.9 percent greater in 1939 than in 1937, and a conservative estimate of the increase for all families participating was from 30 to 35 percent. Practically all of those enrolled added at least one new source of income to what they had before. One of the most notable effects of the contest was to bring into Iredell County a commercial milk factory from which each of 700 families receive approximately \$1.20 per day for milk. In addition, the contest is directly responsible for stimulating in the entire county such practices as terracing, the use of lime and phosphate, the raising of work stock, and the installation of water systems, lights, and electric power, as well as the adoption of home improvements.

The tangible results of the contest in addition to increased income and better farming practices were evident on every side as the judges made their rounds. Well-laid-out farmsteads with buildings remodeled and painted and grounds beautified with shrubbery, walks, and drives were all evidences of the efforts of the contestants. A well-filled pantry, freshly painted rooms, a screened porch, a modernized kitchen, a silo, a new barn—sometimes even a new house—met their eyes as the judges went from farm to farm scoring results and carefully studying record books.

## *Intangible Assets*

But it was the intangible things developed which were perhaps the most significant of all, for it is believed that the increased interest in agricultural affairs and community cooperation, the enthusiasm, vision, and determination to work for a better farm life will be felt in the community for many years to come. Already this spirit has been demonstrated by the organization of a Farm and Home Progress Association in Iredell County. Each family who participated has invited three other families to join in working toward goals which were inspired by the original contest.

The grand prize of \$500 went to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Pressly, of Shiloh township, who consider the gains to themselves from working in the contest of far greater importance than the actual prize. The Presslys admit that keeping records was at first new and strange to them, but they improved each year and now consider bookkeeping of primary importance in running their farm with a profit.



# Demonstrations, Music, and Drama Promote West Virginia 4-H Clubs

**KATHLEEN E. STEPHENSON, Home Demonstration Agent,  
Wetzel County, W. Va.**

■ Demonstrations, music and drama; these three have played an important part in 4-H Club Work in Wetzel County, as 4-H Club members and leaders alike agree. My hobby is 4-H demonstrations. I like to work with leaders and with boys and girls in planning the demonstrations; and it is a real thrill to see boys and girls who have never done anything in particular in club work develop into real speakers and demonstrators, and that is what happens with a little training.

I believe that those who give demonstrations learn many things that otherwise they would never get from 4-H Club work.

## *Bringing in New Ideas*

We not only use demonstrations to teach the boys and girls, but we use them to teach new ideas and practices in the community. During the past 2 years, we have worked mostly with food demonstrations to teach the value of milk and eggs in the diet. These demonstrations were given as a part of our health-improvement program, and as a part of our "Feed the Family First" program.

These food demonstrations were given at regular 4-H Club meetings, public 4-H meetings, for parent-teacher associations, 4-H Club leaders' conferences, women's clubs, farmers' meetings, civic clubs, and at county camp.

The demonstrations were popular. Probably our most interested audience was the Kiwanis Club. The demonstration was "Let's Eat Eggs." Practically every man present asked for recipes and talked with the girls about how they prepared the food.

In 1937 the outstanding demonstration was "A Quart of Milk a Day—Why and How." It won the State contest, and was presented at the national contest. The two girls who were on the team have helped to train many other teams. They have made the statement many times that they learned more about food and health from giving the demonstrations than they had learned in school. So there is an opportunity to teach subject matter to the club members, and in such a way that it is not only interesting at the time but will be retained by them.

In training the teams, there is an opportunity to teach the boys and girls cooperation, coordination of mind and hand, and the psychology of handling a crowd, also to think clearly and logically and to express their ideas in an interesting way.

Demonstrations can serve as a method of arousing community interest in club work

and of developing interest in better farm and home practices.

During the past 3 years, in order to get more boys and girls to participate in demonstrations, we have held a county tournament. Each club trains one or more teams to send to the tournament. The demonstration must be given at three meetings before the tournament. This has created much interest in demonstrations. Some of the clubs hold elimination contests before they select their team for the tournament. The leaders are sold on the idea.

In 1939, more than 100 teams gave demonstrations for various community, county, regional, and State meetings. There was a total of 24 public demonstrations on the value of eggs in the diet, with an attendance of 1,225 persons. There were 59 public demonstrations on the use of milk and milk products, with an attendance of 1,608.

This year, in addition to our food demonstrations, we are sponsoring two teams of boys in connection with our poultry program. One demonstration is on The Care and Marketing of Eggs. This was given at our county poultry school and will be given before community groups to teach better practices to the poultrymen. The other demonstration is What You Should Know About Eggs. This will be given before civic groups to increase consumption of eggs and to encourage people to demand that eggs be sold by grades in accordance with our State law.

In working with older 4-H boys and girls, I find that after they have been in club work 4 or 5 years or have reached the junior or senior year, they feel as though they have outgrown club work. To keep more of the boys and girls interested, they must be given something new and different to do.

We started with a music program, organizing a chorus and smaller groups to study and learn new songs. The theme of our county camp in 1938 was Music, and a music night was a special feature of the camp. The campers were divided into four groups, and each group presented music of a different period. This included folk songs, Negro spirituals, songs of pioneer days, and popular songs of the day. More than 1,000 visitors attended the program.

In 1939, as a special feature of Music Night, the 4-H chorus, composed of members of 4-H Clubs, presented the music from the opera Martha.

This is the beginning of the fifth year since music was introduced as a special part of our 4-H Club program, and it is still popular. In keeping with the National 4-H Music Hour, one club recently presented a public program on Music of Yesterday and Today. This was also used as the theme of our music program at the 1940 county camp. Some of our music activities this year have been a 4-H operetta, 4-H music nights, and community music nights; and five clubs joined forces and presented a real minstrel show. The boys and girls who have gone out of our clubs are still interested in music. One boy and one girl are majoring in public-school music. Several sing in college glee clubs, and those who are still at home take an active part in our music program.

## *A Play's the Thing*

Our next venture was in dramatics; and we found that a "play's the thing" for creative self-expression, for community activities, to develop leadership, to improve organization programs, and to provide something in which all can participate.

The first play was presented by one of the older clubs; and, in addition to being given at home, it was given at the opening program for farm and home week at our State university. Seeing how much the boys and girls enjoyed giving the play, we believed that it would be a worth-while activity for more of them. As we had 10 high-school clubs in the county, we decided to have a play tournament. This was approved by the 4-H Club Leader Association. It proved to be quite interesting as well as educational for them, as most of them had never directed or worked with plays.

Our county is rather large, so we decided to have three sectional tournaments. A winner was selected at each place, and the three winners then presented their plays at a county tournament. We now have a regional play tournament with five counties participating. The plays are first given in the home community.

The clubs have enjoyed working with the plays, and I know it has been the means of keeping more of the older boys and girls in 4-H Club work. It has also helped to advertise 4-H Club work in a favorable way. These three methods—demonstrations, music, and dramatics—have done much in Wetzel County to build a strong 4-H program.



# Rural Women Break Into Print

**LORA FARNSWORTH, County Home Demonstration Agent,  
Howard County, Tex.**

■ There's nothing like talking things over.

At least, this furnishes a good starting point; and from it the program of training for Howard County, Tex., farm and ranch women in reporting home demonstration activities has developed from a haphazard system to one that now averages 300 news accounts annually.

As good intentions are not sufficient for acceptable news writing, it was decided that if clubwomen were to become good reporters they should be trained. This very thing has been done in regular meetings of the reporters' association. This unit operates under the home demonstration council and has as its head an experienced woman who served as a reporter the previous year and who is approved by the council. In addition to her duties as chairman of reporters, she also becomes council reporter and is responsible for reporting all county-wide events related to home demonstration work. In some respects her work makes her comparable to the editor of a publication, for she constantly seeks to devise programs which will improve the quality of reports and stimulate interest in simple, engrossing writing.

However, unlike the editor, her staff works for love—not for money. Hence, recreation is injected into the regular reporters' sessions under the direction of a recreation leader who is appointed by the chairman for each meeting of the year. A secretary is elected at the first meeting of the year, and reports of the association meetings are made to the council.

To capitalize on the inherent spirit of competition, a score card is set up at the beginning of each year for the purpose of judging the work. Occasional reporters' contests are sponsored by the council and include points such as the number of published reports, association and club attendance, and the neatness and originality of scrapbooks. Rules for these contests are determined each year by the reporters themselves.

As for the scrapbooks, they have been pleasant surprises. Because they constitute a personal, permanent record, women appear to take greater pride in the quality of reports that go into them. Some of these books are dedicated to founders of clubs, relatives, or others. Artistic and original arrangements add to their effectiveness.

The first session of the year brings a training meeting for new reporters. Customarily, the home demonstration agent leads in the initial meeting, but the chairman is always in

charge. Often she conducts the instruction, after meeting in advance with the home demonstration agent and making definite plans for the program. The chairman sees that the meeting does not drag and that it is carried out according to her planned outline. This swift, businesslike procedure has accomplished much by encouraging interest and regularity of attendance.

As soon as club reporters learn the rudiments of writing club accounts, they are put to work. The second association meeting finds them displaying their clippings, and all throughout the year they check to see if their articles meet the requirements of a good story.

Occasionally the reporters select the four best stories of the month, which again brings friendly competition into play. During 1939 this was done monthly, and the winning stories were submitted to the district agent who, in turn, selected a quartet of items for the district. These items she sent on a "tour" among home demonstration agents throughout the district, as "model" stories. Naturally, women exerted much effort to place their stories in the favored group. The county home demonstration agent, of course, sees that the club reporter landing a story on the "tour" is informed of her success, and also lets this reporter's club know about it.

## *Must Carry Useful Information*

Occasionally a short demonstration is given by someone at the meeting of the association, and the reporters write a story about it. They then ask the question, Does this report carry a piece of information given at the meeting which will be useful to someone who was not there? which is given in the Texas pamphlet entitled "Get the Story." Subjects for discussion at the meetings are often assigned to individual reporters. These subjects include such things as accuracy, speed, preparation, liveliness, color, and avoidance of editorializing.

Not all of the meetings of the association are dependent on membership talent. At times editors or newspaper staff members are invited to talk over problems and to make suggestions on writing reports and on how to conform better to the style of a local paper. Reporters also call at newspaper offices and ask for suggestions and criticism so that they may improve their work.

In the reporters' association of Howard County, Tex., a mutual responsibility has developed between the reporter and her club. As the reporter applies herself to her task, the club appears obligated to her to hold all regular meetings, and to have programs worthy of a good report. In turn, the reporter feels it her duty to attend all meetings and write a report of the club session which meets with the approval of her club members.

Another important phase in this idea of training is the use of assistant reporters who report meetings when the regular reporter cannot attend. Thus, when the assistant takes the place of the reporter the following year, she is not without some elemental training.

The chief guide used in forming reporters' associations and in training farm and ranch women to report home demonstration activities is the Texas extension pamphlet, C-107, *Get the Story*.

Attendance at both club and association meetings has reached a high standard. Five of the eleven club reporters in Howard County did not miss a club or a reporters' association meeting during the past year.

They gather around their large table, loosen up even the most timid and reticent with songs and mass participation in recreational activities, seriously and frankly discuss their own and others' work, and get results in the columns of their newspapers.

## 4-H Clubs in Jamaica

W. A. James and Miss Aileen Bartlett of Jamaica, recent visitors in Washington, brought news of flourishing clubs in this Caribbean island. Organized April 1, 1939, there are now 120 clubs and 1,200 members in the parish of Clarendon. Mr. James told of the first conference of leaders held in Jamaica just before he left when 220 local leaders from 42 villages met to discuss plans and to talk over the problems.

Vegetable clubs are popular with young Jamaicans who grow tomatoes, cabbages, potatoes, and peanuts. Goats, poultry, and bee-keeping have their advocates as well as the home economics projects for the girls.

The 4-H Club organization was brought to Jamaica through the efforts of J. W. Howe, formerly with the Extension Service in the United States, now head master of the Government School of Agriculture in Jamaica. It is sponsored by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, a government organization which employs Mr. James and Miss Bartlett. Clubs have also received help from commercial companies doing business in Jamaica.

There used to be an opportunity for the young people to get work in New York and in Cuba, but such opportunities have now been closed to Jamaica young people who have to stay on the home farm. 4-H Clubs are helping to solve some of their problems.



# California Holds Its First 4-H All-Star Conference



These are some of the 70 boys and girls who met in March on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley to participate in the first annual 4-H all-star conference lasting 4 days. They have gathered around to inspect objects of vitamin research after a talk on that subject by Dr. Agnes Fay Morgan of the University of California. The conference was opened by Director B. H. Crocheron of the Agricultural Extension Service, and other members of the faculty spoke to the delegates on the subject of further education and how they may be of service in

scientific fields as well as in those of physical education, domestic science, music, art and literature.

The high honor of being selected an all-star of a county carries with it opportunities and at the same time obligations and responsibilities for public service. It is expected that delegates to this conference will take back to their communities inspiration and plans for leadership and that in turn the 4-H Clubs in the county will benefit from the contacts of their representatives with other delegates and speakers at the all-star conference.

## 4-H Members Figure Close

**J. ROBERT HALL, County Agricultural Agent, Linn County, Mo.**

■ In order to qualify for a production credit association loan to finance their baby-beef club work, 73 4-H Club members in Linn County planned their operations almost a year in advance of the sale of their calves, estimating all items of cost and even forecasting the probable selling price. How closely they figured is shown by the fact that they closed the year's work with an average net income of \$23.40, which was only \$3.76 less than their average estimate.

Their estimates were based on 15 different factors which were listed on a blank supplied

by the county extension office. To get the answers to these questions club members consulted cattle feeders, their parents, and their club leaders. They also studied the information prepared by the Extension Service on the outlook for beef prices and the prices of the feeds required.

In making their calculations, these 4-H Club members recorded the original weight and cost of each calf, the number of days they would have to feed them before marketing, the amount of each kind of feed and its probable cost, the gain expected, and—

most problematical of all—a forecast of the selling price. Even on this factor, however, they did not slip seriously; they expected their calves to sell at \$11.12 a hundred pounds, and the calves actually sold at \$10.80.

Of course, there were those who valued their feed too high and others whose estimates of the feed costs were too low. Some overestimated their gains, whereas others underestimated them. Many of the estimates were remarkably close to the figures shown in their final records.

The closest estimates of all were made by twin sisters, Mary and Martha Powell, who estimated that their calves would net them \$31.70 each. The calves actually brought \$31.35 each. They bought their calves from John F. Wood, a neighbor Hereford breeder. The calves weighed 350 pounds each, and their original cost was \$28 each. They ate more than 50 bushels of corn and 30 bushels of oats and, of course, had soybean-oil meal and minerals.

It goes without saying that a few very serious errors were made. One youngster, who was new in calf-club work, estimated that he would make \$62, but actually made only \$15. Another who had been in club work a number of years hoped only to break even, but actually came out \$6.82 ahead.

Linn County 4-H Club members are again making estimates of the expected costs and income on their operations for the coming year. By continuing to do this when they get into larger operations as men and women, they will know better where they are going to come out financially and will, therefore, be able to avoid many disappointments.

## 4-H Credit

The Farm Security Administration has broadened its program to make loans to boys and girls in rehabilitation families so that they can buy the stock or equipment necessary for their 4-H projects.

The loans are usually for less than \$50. Before each loan is made, the FSA supervisor determines from the county extension agent that the boy or girl can use the money properly and profitably. Security includes a note signed by the child and his parents, as well as chattel or crop mortgages. The business transaction involved is fully explained to the young borrowers so that they clearly realize that the loan is their obligation and that its repayment is their responsibility.

Club loans are ordinarily made for the purpose of buying a calf, a pig, chickens, or other livestock to carry out the club project; but they may also be used to purchase seed, plants, fertilizer, etc., when these are to be used in connection with types of projects approved by the county extension agent.

Since the beginning of this program, more youngsters all over the country are taking part in the club projects, and many of them have won prizes at fairs and exhibits.



# 4-H Introduces Profitable Sheep Raising

H. J. AASE, County Club Agent, St. Louis County, Minnesota

■ It took the 4-H Club members of St. Louis County, Minn., just 10 years to make sheep raising one of the major club projects for this cut-over area of the State.

When prices for wool were skyrocketing during the World War back in 1918, there was a boom on sheep raising that fell with a crash at the close of the war. Sheepmen sat back and said, "Never again," because they were the victims of high-priced sheep with no market for their wool.

## *Abundant Pastures Available*

The loss suffered by these adults left a bad taste in their mouths as far as sheep raising in the county was concerned. But here was a climate and situation suitable for producing wool and mutton as a permanent part of the farm business in northeastern Minnesota. Abundant pasture of nutritious legumes and upland grasses made it possible to carry lambs through the summer and to bring them through as top lambs for fall market with practically no extra grain feeding.

Demonstrations by the 4-H Club members began to attract the attention of both prospective producers and buyers, and one of the first to realize the possibilities of greater income of the excellent clover area through the raising of more sheep was the late H. R. Elliott, of Duluth.

So enthusiastic was this public-spirited man about what the 4-H Club members had demonstrated that he offered to help others to get into sheep raising as a club project. And the way he did it was to set aside \$400 in trust with the 4-H Club agent and a livestock committee from the Duluth Chamber of Commerce. With the setting up of this committee and the money in the bank ready to be used, the Duluth Chamber of Commerce and Elliott Sheep Revolving Fund commenced to function.

The first 4-H rally and sheep distribution day in Minnesota was exciting and eventful. It was a typical northern Minnesota midwinter day in February with the wind blowing, snow flying, and the thermometer reading down close to zero. Cars with their trailers attached stalled in the snow; radiators froze; and much shoveling and pushing were necessary to keep things going. But the spirit of the day was "hot with enthusiasm," and after a warm dinner given all new applicants at the county farm each of the 28 new sheep-club members went home inspired to put sheep-club work across in their respective communities.

This was the start of the Elliott Sheep Revolving Fund which quickly gained in

popularity. The fund was increased to \$1,000 the next year. More sheep were placed, and money started coming in from notes held by sheep club applicants. The money started to revolve. And, like the old popular tune in which the music went round and round, the money went round and round and the sheep kept coming out on new farms. After 10 years there are 240 sheep club members in the cut-over area of northeastern Minnesota.

Some master flockmen have developed among the 4-H Club members in whose hands have been placed individual ewes or small flocks of ewes. One of these is Eldred Burtness. Starting in 1930 with Betsy, his old ewe which regularly produced triplets or twins, he quickly built up a flock of fine breeding ewes. Today he manages a flock of more than 200 breeding ewes. Purebred ewes have been introduced into his flock. His winnings of "purple and blue" indicate that he has used nothing but the very best of purebred rams all the time. It is no wonder that his showings at the county and State fairs are the hurdles that old-timers must get over before they can place at the head of the ring.

## *Master Flockman Developed*

The proficiency of the ewes purchased 4 years ago by another 4-H Club member by the name of Waino Tormo of Gilbert illustrates how fast a flock can be built up when good management and luck join hands. In his own words in telling his story over the 4-H radio hour this winter, he said: "For the bred ewe, for which I paid \$5, I signed a note for 6 months. That spring my ewe had twin lambs. One of these lambs, a wether, I sold for mutton. With the money I received from the wool of the old ewe and the mutton I sold, I had more than enough money to pay off my note. With the extra money, I bought another ewe. That gave me three ewes, and in the spring the two old ewes had triplets and the young ewe, twins. That made eight lambs from three ewes. I raised seven of the lambs to maturity." Waino now has a nice flock on his father's farm, which he is managing as one of the dependable sources of income from the farm.

One of the good features developed out of the sheep club work has been the continued interest of the businessmen of the city and towns of this area in sheep raising. The first outgrowth of the sheep project was the establishment of the annual 4-H sheep wool pool and luncheon.

This event brings together all the sheep

club members to pool their wool cooperatively. With the wool-pool day set in June to give ample time to all sheep club members for shearing, the wool clips are all brought together at a vacant building near the business section of Duluth. Here expert wool graders demonstrate how to judge quality in wool clips. Other experts give instructions in sheep husbandry. After the wool is graded, it is sold cooperatively through the wool growers' association. Money from the sale of the wool is used by those who have notes on their sheep to pay off their indebtedness. The six best fleeces are taken by their proud owners to the noonday luncheon given in honor of the sheep club members by the businessmen of the town. The feature of the noonday program is the auctioning off of these prize wool clips to the businessmen who pay fancy prices per pound for the fleeces.

Another event to help in the development of the sheep project is the market show in the fall. This event, now the Northeastern Minnesota Junior Livestock Show, started in a very modest manner as a small county show at the county farm. It had a purpose, and in 3 years' time it had grown to a district-wide show which attracts exhibits by the best 4-H sheep club members from an area of 37,000 square miles in northeastern Minnesota, which receives aid from the State.

## *4-H Institute Brings Big Turn-Out*

A spring 4-H sheep institute brings a big turn-out of both juniors and adults for a full day of instructions and demonstrations on all phases of sheep husbandry. The 4-H ram rings make it possible for beginners and small-flock owners to get the service of good rams. Next year purebred ewes will be placed in the 4-H flocks of experienced and proven 4-H herdsmen. The sheep fund committee members will select a certain number of qualified club members who will be given purebred ewes in exchange for grade ewes out of their flocks. Ram lambs from these ewes will be used in sheep flocks and ram rings of the 4-H Clubs.

A 10-year record of the 4-H sheep revolving fund shows that the money has revolved several times and that more than 3,000 breeding ewes have found a place in the farm-management plans of some 240 farms of 4-H Club members in this cut-over area of Minnesota. The financing plan has worked successfully, and the fund of \$1,000 is still intact, less a few dollars from a few losses and operating expenses.



# Better Living Through Better Farming

Negro farm families of Dallas County, Ala., are working together under the leadership of their extension agents to improve their methods of farming and homemaking. With more than two-thirds of the county in farms, all of the rural families depend entirely on agriculture for subsistence. In the county there are 6,250 Negro rural families and 832 white. S. W. Boynton, Negro county agricultural agent, tells of the changes that have taken place since extension work started there in 1910.

■ When extension work first began, there was no definite program worked out to meet the needs of the farmers. It was largely sponsored through the local banks and the chamber of commerce, and cotton was the chief problem. The agents went into the field mainly to fight the boll weevil, to teach the production of more cotton, and, in the case of women, to assist with canning. This work was done with individuals. The farmers were growing cotton and very little food and livestock. They had to sell this cotton on the streets to buyers for whatever they could get. If they had any surplus cattle, milk, or poultry for sale, they had to sell it on the farm for the buyer's price, as there was no organized market for farm produce.

Now there is an organized market for the sale of livestock. Recently a community center has been built in Selma for a large program among the Negro people. Leading citizens of both races took a great part in helping to build this center to house the extension agents' office and the farm bureau activities. Here, following community and county-wide meetings, the farm people meet with the extension agents to determine their entire farm program.

As a result of the work of the Extension Service, the live-at-home program is influencing farmers to grow more food and feed for their families and livestock. Farm families are encouraged to plant a garden sufficient in size to take care of the family's needs and to grow at least 10 vegetables three seasons of the year and 4 vegetables during the winter by practicing proper methods of planting, cultivating, and insect control. Last year, 20 home demonstration clubs carried out this year-round garden program with one woman in each community serving as a demonstrator.

Dollars which have in the past gone out of the county for food and feed will stay in the home pocket this year to buy clothing, home equipment, and better farm equipment. Thrifty farm families prepare for the winter with well-stocked pantries full of a variety of canned goods, sweetpotatoes, dried beans and peas, sirup, nuts and cured meat, and plan to have plenty of feed for livestock.

When the flood came at harvesting season, 3,000 families along the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers saw all their food and feed washed away. The county home demonstration agent, Lucy Mae Upshaw, and I set about to help these people. Through the cooperation of the Red Cross we were able to supply garden seed to 800 stricken families. Meetings were held in each of the flooded communities, and instruction was given in planting and cultivating the gardens. Some of these families attending had never before been to a garden meeting.

One of the farmers, whose 6-acre farm was seriously damaged by the flood, was able to meet the payment on his farm from the sale of milk. His 12 cows produced \$841.73 worth of milk. Where markets have been established, farmers are selling milk and cream and find it a help to the family income. There are 1,370 farmers living in 6 communities marketing approximately 55,000 worth of milk and cream annually.

For success in dairying our farmers are realizing that they must have only high-producing animals, build good pastures, produce an abundance of forage feed along lines proved to be good, and keep a constant watch for diseases. The farmers have set up a program for a cow on every farm in the county. Where pasture and sufficient forage are available, the farmer is urged to keep at least two cows. This number will assure milk for the family the year round and allow the farmer to sell some milk for cash during the year. Only purebred bulls are used, and war has been declared on the scrub bull. Every cow in the community has been treated for Bang's disease.

When cotton proves to be nonprofitable, farmers also seek cash from beef cattle. Five years of growing fat calves for the market have benefited 11 demonstrators. The success that these 11 farmers made in growing fat calves helped to pave the way for producing more beef cattle. These 11 farmers have produced \$27,308.31 worth of beef cattle since they started conducting these demonstrations in 1934. They have grown graded cattle, using only purebred bulls with graded dams. Each year a tour has been made to at least two of

these farms. As a result of these tours, 51 other farmers are growing beef cattle for a cash income.

Two to 15 years' experience has convinced 844 farmers that they can double or treble their crop yields with hairy vetch, Austrian winter peas, and crimson clover. That winter legumes are yearly gaining in popularity is indicated by the fact that Dallas County planted 250,000 pounds of seeds in 1938, whereas 20 years ago practically none was used.

The people of the 38 communities of the county have carried on a health program through their farm and homemakers' clubs and 4-H Clubs. In cooperation with the schools and churches a campaign has been waged to replace the old dipper with the individual drinking cup. These communities worked to drain five ponds to get rid of breeding places for mosquitoes. Five homes were whitewashed; 6 wells were repaired, and 27 springs cleaned. Flowers and shrubbery have been planted on the grounds of 2 homes and 1 school.

A total of 995 men, women, boys, and girls attended a health program carried on by Tuskegee Movable School workers and the extension agents. The nurse and doctor working on the movable school gave health demonstrations and lectures to the groups in four communities. The doctor pointed out the causes for so many rural people being ill and advised them how to keep well. People traveled great distances to seek the advice of the nurse and the doctor. One of the main features of the health program carried to the group was the moving-picture show on health. This picture emphasized the importance of having health examinations once a year. The movable school also gave demonstrations on sweetpotato banking, painting outhouses, screening, draining ponds, and preparation of food.

Our extension activities have not been confined to the adult farmers, for much of our time has been given to 4-H Club activities. Although other farmers failed with their corn crop, due to excess rain, 324 4-H Club boys made a good record with corn projects, growing 3,111 bushels of corn on 182 acres. The success was due largely to the use of winter cover crops and shallow cultivation.

When the income on the farm was at the lowest point, the cash received from pig projects conducted by 275 boys helped to provide the family income. Many boys were encouraged to stay on the farms because of the value of their pigs which were well cared for and because of other projects. Last year \$1,180.91 was collected from the sale of 231 hogs.

Sweetpotatoes were grown by 299 4-H Club boys during 1939. One of the boys made a county record by producing 80 bushels of



sweetpotatoes from his 1-acre project. The movable school was held at his home in the spring, and a demonstration was given in bedding potatoes. The boy followed the lesson in planting his potatoes. He cultivated and gathered them as taught at club meetings. He learned to build a "kill" to care for his potatoes and has taught his father a new method of storing them.

From 250 members who wrote on The Value of Poultry on the Farm, 20 boys and girls were selected winners of 1,000 baby chicks donated by a local firm. Ten girls and ten boys received 50 chicks each in April. Each member agreed to build a brooder and to grow the chicks to production and then to give a certain number of eggs to the club the following spring. The eggs were hatched, and another group of 4-H Club members have

started on poultry. So far, the members of the poultry club have made a success of the venture.

During the past 2 years, some 45 Negro farmers in 7 communities have put electric lights in their homes. These farmers joined with white farmers in obtaining the line made possible by the Rural Electrification Administration. Not only have they wired their homes, but they have put in such labor-saving equipment as irons, refrigerators, sewing machines, and radios. Seventy-two families in other communities where the lines do not reach have called at the extension office for assistance in getting electrical service in their area. Six farmers in Kingslanding community, finding that they could not get a power line, have established power plants of their own.

But, on the other side of the ledger, the other debts were virtually paid, the taxes and interest were paid up, the family's health was better, the income from the small farm had more than doubled, several additions and improvements had been made to the farm home, a new barn had been constructed (largely through trading materials for services and services for materials) and the eldest boy had been married and had brought his wife home with him.

And a few years later, when that boy began to make his independent way in the world, he turned for advice to the county home demonstration agent. For had it not been another demonstration agent who had done the planning for his family which gave them their independent start in life?

Land planning, labor planning, city planning—we hear much of that today. From this episode comes a lesson in what can be done by careful, sympathetic life planning.

## A Farm Family Learns To Plan

Do the facts learned in the demonstration stick? Home demonstration agents who wonder about the results of their work will be interested in this story of a farm family in the State of Washington, written by Calvert Anderson, extension editor, from facts on record in the extension office.

The young couple walked into the county extension office. When the girl at the desk questioned them as to their wants, they declared that they wished to talk with the home demonstration agent with regard to their plans for the construction of a modest home.

They had been married only a few years before. He now had a steady job with an income which permitted them to live an average life. She was expecting a baby in the near future. They wanted a home of which three rooms could be finished immediately—before the baby came.

The home demonstration agent helped the young couple to develop the plans they desired. The home was built in ample time, and the new arrival had a place to "lay his head" when he was born.

After the first hustle and bustle had died away, the agent became slightly curious about the reason why the pair had turned to her so readily when they needed advice. There was no reticence on their part to tell their story.

It began back in the fall of 1928. At that time the boy was still in school and did not even know the girl.

His family found itself facing a serious situation. The father had recently lost his job in the mill. The farm was small, heavily mortgaged, and unproductive. The family of five was in debt, with no member having a paying job. Some members of the group were not in the best of health.

Looking at their situation, the mother decided that something must be done. She consulted with her home demonstration agent, briefly outlined her problems, and received sympathetic advice.

Then with pencil and paper the family sat down to outline their own plan of living. Immediate goals were easy to list: Clear up the indebtedness; increase the income from the farm to cover the cost of living; improve housing conditions; better family health; better educational opportunities.

The means of attaining these goals were harder to outline and even yet harder in several cases to put into effect. But they were outlined—careful study of all food needs with quantity buying supplemented by home-produced butter, eggs, milk, garden vegetables, and fruits and meats when possible—better supervision and planning of clothing needs.

Jobs turned up from time to time. The two boys got work for wages and for produce and building materials which were used in repairing the home. The small farm was cleared, scientific methods adopted, and slowly a brighter picture began to develop.

In 1937 that woman made a full report of her work and activities to a conference of demonstration agents and others interested. The family was still far from rich, the farm was still mortgaged, and the husband had given up the idea of ever going back to work again.

## Studying Electrical Equipment

A 3-day rural-electrification school held at Pullman, Wash., in June gave 23 home demonstration agents of that State an opportunity to hear the discussion of new types of electric equipment by experts and to actually work with many kinds and types of electrical equipment for the home. With the rapid installation of electricity through the Rural Electrification Administration cooperatives and power companies, home demonstration agents are more and more called upon for information on selecting equipment to meet the needs of rural homes, as well as on the effective use and care of this equipment. More than 8,000 farms have recently been electrified, and it is expected that 3,500 more will have electricity by the end of the year.

The school was in charge of Esther Pond, home management specialist. The Rural Electrification Administration, the utilization director of the Bonneville project, and dealers and distributors of household electrical equipment in Spokane, Pullman, and Moscow, Idaho, cooperated.

The first day was devoted to talks and discussions and the last 2 days to studying electrical equipment through actual use. The full use of ranges, refrigerators, mixers, and roasters was investigated by preparing lunches and dinners for 35 people. The meals were planned for the greatest use of equipment. An unusual feature of the school was the evaluation of methods of washing clothes from the rub-board process to electricity with the use of different types of electric washers, including one in which all operations are done automatically. All agents used different irons to study the efficiency of various types.

Lighting the home efficiently was the subject of an interesting evening session. Refrigerators and small pieces of equipment, such as toasters and waffle irons, came in for their share of study.



# Two Years of Club Work

**DONALD Y. STILES, 4-H Club Agent, Franklin County, Vt.**

■ When I started my work as club agent in Franklin County, Vt., in July 1938, I was told that it would take me at least a year to get my feet on the ground and to get acquainted with my county and also with all the aspects of the 4-H Club program.

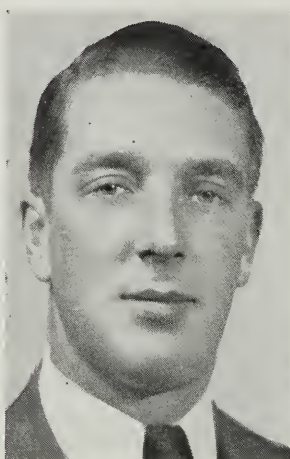
We have had organized 4-H Club work in the county since 1929. Nevertheless, there now seems to be a greatly increased interest in 4-H Club work throughout the county; and we now have clubs in communities which have had no club work for some time. Just why this is I am not certain. What I am certain of, though, is that these new groups are very much interested and are going ahead with programs which include, in addition to project work, other activities such as recreation, community and home service, and personal improvement.

I find that, in spite of many reports to the contrary, our boys and girls of today are just as much interested in learning how to do worth-while things and in bettering themselves as were the boys and girls of previous generations. True, we have no West to conquer or new lands to settle. We do, however, have ever-changing conditions to adjust ourselves to; and probably as many problems as ever need solving.

It is toward this end that our 4-H Club program aims. We recognize that many of our dairy club boys will not be dairymen and that poultry members may not be future poultrymen. Whatever they do, though, we feel that they will be able to do better through having been in 4-H Club work. By this I mean that we urge club members to do well the job they are doing, regardless of how small it may seem.

High ideals and standards are kept before club members in the hope that new and better attitudes of mind will result. In short, I believe that the chief objective of 4-H Club work is "to help rural boys and girls to develop desirable ideals and standards for farming, homemaking, community life, and citizenship, and to afford a clearer vision of agriculture as a basic industry and of homemaking as a worthy occupation." These ideals and standards are not developed overnight, and they are not gained without some expenditure of effort by the boys and girls concerned. We believe in the principle of "learning by doing," with the result that our boys learn to raise calves by actually doing the work and our girls learn about clothing construction through the making of articles and garments.

Not long ago I attended a girls' club meeting at which I had the opportunity to observe as fine a type of community service as I have



Donald Y. Stiles.

ever seen. Each girl in the club (and there are 18) has pledged herself to help make life a little brighter by visiting and presenting some small gift to at least one person who is shut in by illness. I can't help but feel that these girls have learned the true worth of community service, and there was most certainly no question of their sincerity. These girls meant it when they said, "I pledge my heart to greater loyalty." I should go a step further and say that things of this nature are done by the club members themselves. They do not ask their parents to furnish

the money sometimes necessary but hustle around and earn it for themselves. To cite an example, I have a club, organized only last fall, which put on a supper party and devoted the proceeds to the buying of sunshine baskets for those less fortunate in health than themselves. These girls received double satisfaction because they had done this themselves, and there is no question in my mind about the influence it will have on their later lives.

If we look at 4-H Club work from the material side, I believe that we shall see just as great an influence. I feel, however, that these material values are merely incidental as far as the benefits from 4-H Club work are concerned. Of far more value to them is the training which results in their reaching the objectives which I mentioned earlier. These objectives are of an intangible nature and often difficult to measure, but association with club members has put all doubt of their value and possibility of attainment out of my mind.

What does all this have to do with the subject, Two Years of Club Work? My answer would be that these things were all eye openers to a chap who had had no previous connections with 4-H Club work. I found that I had much to get acquainted with besides my county and the people in it. 4-H Club work took on a new meaning. Instead of being just a name which other people mentioned, it became a movement through which our rural boys and girls might be helped to better themselves and to make for a better farm life. In the short period of 2 years I have come to the conclusion that there is no limit to the opportunities for 4-H Club work, and I only hope that the next 2 years will prove to be as satisfying and as interesting as the past 2 years have been.

## Home Demonstration Club Survey

■ What kind of farm women are the home demonstration clubs reaching? In order that those planning adult extension work might know more about the homemakers for whom work is planned, a survey of home economics groups was made recently in 20 Indiana counties. The following facts were brought out from 4,948 reports:

Fifteen percent of the women were under 30 years of age; 26 percent between 30 and 39 years; 31 percent between 40 and 49; and 28 percent over 50 years.

In checking the item on net income, 33 percent reported net incomes under \$500; 23 percent from \$500 to \$1,000; 23 percent from \$1,000 to \$1,500; and 20 percent from \$1,500 to \$2,000 or over.

Thirty-four percent of the homemakers had only elementary education; 45 percent had

some high-school education; and 21 percent attended college or had some special training.

In answer to the question, Do you live on a farm?, 66 percent answered "Yes" and 34 percent "No."

In 38 percent of the households there were no children; 26 percent had 1 child; 18 percent, 2 children; 10 percent, 3 children; 4 percent, 4 children; and 4 percent, 5 to 10 children.

The majority of these homemakers have contact with other organizations; 87 percent with church; 68 percent with Sunday school; 23 percent with P. T. A.; 52 percent other church organizations; and 32 percent with other women's clubs.

Forty-four percent of these women had contact with 4 or more organizations besides the home economics clubs.



# Home Demonstrations Develop Able Leader

**DAISY DEANE WILLIAMSON, State Home Demonstration Leader, New Hampshire**

■ One of the most important and significant meetings of the year was held in Manchester, N. H., March 28. Here 25 rural and 25 urban women met and discussed for 12 hours "Abundant Living for All."

It was significant because it was the first discussion group on rural-urban cooperation held in New England as a follow-up of the national conference in Washington called by Secretary Wallace in April 1939.

It was of special interest because the plans of the meetings were developed and carried through to a successful finish under the leadership of Mrs. Laura Y. Bickford of Epsom, N. H., for 20 years a successful local leader in home demonstration work.

The conference was planned as an activity of the Division of Rural-Urban Cooperation of the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs of which Mrs. Bickford is chairman. The Extension Service of the university cooperated with her, and one member served on her State committee. Included in the conference group also were several technical advisers—experts in their respective lines—who were there to supply data wherever needed as the discussion progressed.

At the beginning of the session, under the able leadership of A. Drummond Jones, senior social scientist from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, everyone understood that no resolutions were to be presented, no votes were to be taken, and no opinions were to be suppressed. The women in discussing "Abundant Living" agreed that there is abundance in America but that all folks don't have it. They discussed surpluses and poverty, groups needing aid, people who were willing and unwilling to try to help themselves, what happens when folks have more money than they can ever use, and what happens to folks who cannot obtain the bare necessities.

## *What Prevents Abundance*

They weighed the educational systems and discussed wherein they were doing a good job and in what ways they should be improved. They felt the need of continuous adult education in order that folks may look after family health, recreation, and general welfare. They wondered if too many youths are being prepared for white-collar jobs without regard to availability of such jobs and without consideration of the youths' capabilities. They doubted if the sound principles and sterling qualities of our forefathers should be sacrificed to the hurried life of today. Taxes and trade barriers, old-age assistance, effect of war on business and future security, along with a



Mrs. Laura Bickford.

hundred other things were given consideration during the 12-hour session.

The women agreed that every problem presented was the concern of every woman present; that what concerned the Government was their problem, too; that conditions now found in the United States were made by all of us because we are the Government; and that those conditions that are not right would have to be corrected by all of us because we allowed them to come into existence.

The success of this conference, and it was a success, was due primarily to the vision, enthusiasm, and leadership of Mrs. Bickford who began her leadership training back in 1920 when she assisted farm women in making 142 paper dress forms.

Mrs. Bickford has steadily pushed forward in developing her administrative abilities. She served 10 years on the executive board of the Merrimack County Farm Bureau; organized the Woman's Club of Epsom and the Epsom Parent-Teacher Association and served as the first president of both. She also served as librarian in the public library for 8 years. In the State Federation of Women's Clubs she served as library adviser and was chairman of the American Home Department and the Urban Rural Cooperation Department.

In addition to these many duties in spare

moments, she took advantage of the opportunity to take winter reading courses in both agriculture and home economics from the University of New Hampshire. Whenever possible she entered all contests sponsored by the Extension Service and the farm bureau, including one-act plays, dress and baking contests, original essays, and public speaking, as well as appearing in numerous pageants and other events during Farmers' and Homemakers' Conference.

In one-act play contests she was in 1929 named the outstanding individual player. Then from 1934 to 1937, when she served as recreational adviser for her county, she assisted many groups in putting on prize-winning performances. She turned her attention eventually to furthering old-time singing schools. The Chichester-Epsom Singing School, now 5 years old and still flourishing, is a grand example of her work in this field.

With the towns of Chichester and Epsom working together so well on this music project, she decided to see what could be done toward organizing a winter-sports association with these same groups. The organization was started in 1935 and now has in its treasury \$811, besides the memory of the grand times these towns have had playing together.

She found time to serve as a local 4-H Club leader for several years, as vice president and assistant director of a dramatic club, as president of a county dramatic council, as vice commander of the Women's Field Army for Control of Cancer, and was the only woman member of the town budget committee for 6 years. On Sundays she served as superintendent of a Sunday school.

## *Wins Many Honors*

Her town folks were proud of her when she received her silver-star certificate in the grange, and they "just knew she'd do it" when she won first prize in the State Farm Bureau Federation public speaking contest with her essay on the Farm Woman and Her Civic Responsibilities. She came back from the American Farm Bureau meeting in Chicago with second prize from among many competitors in the national contest.

With this list of Mrs. Bickford's activities during the last 20 years in review, one would know that the rural-urban conference under her leadership could have been nothing less than a huge success. And she can always find time to do that "one thing more."

Through the type of leadership so well characterized by Mrs. Bickford, extension work will continue to flourish.



# Out of Depression on a 4-H Project

County Agent Carl Ash, west Polk County, Minn., modestly tells here a story of how two 4-H Club members achieved remarkable success in baby beef growing. While Mr. Ash remains in the background throughout the article, extension workers in Minnesota praise his excellent 4-H program and credit him with much of the inspiration and leadership that he generously attributes to others.

■ "Get yourself a good Angus calf for a 4-H project and let him teach you how to feed, and when the calf has done that, buy a good Angus cow and build your own herd."

This is the advice of William and Bennie Strickler, west Polk County, Minn., who started 4-H livestock projects in 1928 and self-helped their way to ownership of 640 acres of land, 103 beef cows, and 60 head of young stock. All this happened during a decade when failure and despair dogged the efforts of others who were less energetic and optimistic.

Horatio Alger's pluckiest heroes had nothing on these two lads. It took pure grit for Bennie, 17, and William, 15, on advice from their assistant county agent, "Clem" Chase, to buy two purebred Angus calves at a farm auction sale back in 1930. They had raised Shorthorn 4-H calves from their dad's grade herd and decided to use their project earnings to buy purebreds, so buy them they did.

With an eye to the future, they stayed at the sale to see the female breeding stock sold. The bids for the mother of William's calf rose to \$75 which seemed like a lot of money to the boys. However, after a very hurried consul-

tation with Mr. Chase and their parents, they decided that it would be a good investment and were successful in obtaining her at that price.

When the mother of Bennie's calf came up for sale, the price went beyond \$75. In fact, it rapidly rose to \$100 which seemed to be far beyond Bennie's reach. Dad Tellier, of Farmington, was auctioneer. When the price of the cow reached \$100, he chanced to notice that the boys were bidding and he exclaimed to the audience: "Wait a minute!" Then to the boys, "Young fellows, do you want this cow?"

Bennie, with all the eagerness of a young chap, said "Yes."

Dad Tellier then asked, "How much did we sell your brother's cow for?"

Bennie answered, "\$75."

Dad replied, "We'll do the same for you. Sold, for \$75!"

Dad Tellier, veteran auctioneer of 4-H junior livestock shows and other sales, acted more wisely perhaps than he knew, for from these two cows and two calves, the boys have built a mighty fine herd of Angus cattle.

The calves went to the State 4-H Junior

Livestock Show in 1931. Other calves took the boys to the same show in 1932 and 1933, which was the last year that Bennie was eligible to show; but William was present at both the 1934 and the 1935 junior livestock shows with Angus calves. The boys never won a championship, but each year they brought home their proceeds from the show and invested them in more calves and more cattle. They bought several choice cows in 1932 and attended the International Livestock Show at Chicago with Mr. Chase the same year. There they purchased a purebred Angus bull to head their herd of five purebred cows. It took some more courage for the boys to pay \$180 of hard-earned money for a purebred sire in the fall of 1932.

Time and good feeding and management have since increased the herd to more than 160 head. They now farm together about 2,400 acres of land, of which they own 640 acres and rent the rest from their parents and others.

## *The Boys Take Their Place in the Community*

In the meantime, what of their life and living? Both are now married. Bennie lives on the purchased land, and William is building a new home for his recent bride on the old home place. They are active in county extension programs and still remember that they got much of their own inspiration through participation in 4-H Club work. William is boys' adult leader of the local 4-H Club this year, and they still watch the progress of boys and girls, particularly in the baby-beef project. They carry a joint \$20,000 insurance policy, the premiums for which are paid out of farm income. The policy reads that in the event of the death of either, the entire sum goes to the deceased's family and the farm then automatically belongs to the surviving brother.

What factors have contributed so largely to the progress of William and Bennie? They are not located on the best kind of land, but they have learned how to farm the land they have to good advantage. They are good feeders. Their cattle were all in near-killer flesh this spring, and yet they had 50 tons of silage to sell. Most of it was bought by farmers with only a few head to feed. They have enjoyed the inspiration of their parents, of their wives, and of "Clem" Chase, now county agent in Pipestone County.

Perhaps the keynote of their success has been a faith in the future and in their own ability. They rode out of the depression with their 4-H projects, and they have shown the way to success for other 4-H Club boys in the community.

Benny (left) and William (right) Strickler with some of the pure-bred Angus beef cattle they exhibited at the Red River Valley livestock shows in 1940.





# Farmers of 20 States Confer on Phosphate

■ Seventy-five farmers from 20 States, in which the testing and demonstrating of TVA experimental phosphates with Extension Service guidance has been taken up, attended a 2-day conference in middle Tennessee and at Muscle Shoals, Ala., June 21 and 22. They were accompanied by extension service, agricultural college, and experiment station representatives.

The conference was sponsored by the USDA-States-TVA Coordinating Committee, of which Dean Thomas P. Cooper, of Kentucky, is chairman. It brought together for the first time representatives of practically all phosphate test-demonstration States.

The following States were represented: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The first day was spent in middle Tennessee, where the soils are naturally rich in mineral plant nutrients, especially phosphorus. Here the visitors observed that an unusually prosperous and stable agriculture, in which sods predominate, has developed.

In the morning, as guests of the middle Tennessee Experiment Station, they inspected pasture, feeding, and breeding investigations on which this station, in a phosphate-rich area, places emphasis. Station officials discussed a popular bulletin which strikingly

contrasts soils, plants, animals, and living conditions of phosphate-rich and phosphate-poor areas.

That afternoon a typical phosphate-mining operation was visited; and then a plant where ore is washed, cleaned, and concentrated was inspected. The group went on to a superphosphate and dry-mixing plant where the ore is treated with sulphuric acid to make 16-20 percent superphosphate, and where mixed fertilizers are prepared.

The second day opened with a conference at which the background of TVA fertilizer investigations was explained, and equipment to be seen was described by chemical engineers. Then the visitors saw the electric furnace process in operation turning out 47-48 percent superphosphate, and 60-63 percent calcium metaphosphate. There was also equipment for processes not yet at this stage of development.

Prompted by what they had seen, the visitors sought, at an afternoon conference, additional information about the plant and the reaction of the TVA investigations upon the plant food situation in this country. Hope was expressed that, as the country strengthens defense industrially and with munitions, the plant may aid a parallel contribution to defense through soil security. The conference closed with informal reports by numbers of farmers of the test-demonstration activity in their States.

The following series have been revised and brought up to date. Users of the illustrated lectures should be sure that they have the latest revision, thus making use of the latest knowledge the Department has to offer. Old film strips and lecture notes should be discarded to avoid conflicts.

Series 126. *Selecting Hens for Egg Production*.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletin 1727, *Selecting Hens for Egg Production*, and illustrates methods of selecting hens and outlines a breeding program for increasing egg production. 55 frames, 55 cents.

Series 133. *Standard Breeds of Poultry*.—Illustrates standard varieties of poultry, with a few frames on ducks, geese, and turkeys and supplements Farmers' Bulletins Nos. 1506 and 1507. 48 frames, 50 cents.

Series 157. *Control of Sweetpotato Diseases*.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletins Nos. 1059 and 1443 and illustrates the common diseases of the sweetpotato and methods of control. 52 frames, 55 cents.

Series 342. *Diseases of Flue-Cured Tobacco*.—Illustrates the more important diseases of flue-cured tobacco and should be useful at meetings of tobacco growers in the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. Certain of the frames are applicable in other States, but the notes were written for the flue-cured tobacco district. However, this series should find a wide use in connection with programs looking toward a permanent agriculture. 53 frames, 55 cents.

## New England's Lamb and Pig Clubs

A renewed interest in 4-H lamb and pig projects is developing in New England, reports Harley A. Leland, assistant State 4-H Club leader in Massachusetts. Forty-five pigs and twenty-three lambs are being fattened this summer by Massachusetts club members. Seven of the pigs and nine of the lambs will be entered in the fat-lamb and fat-pig exhibition at the Eastern States Exposition this fall.

4-H pig projects reached their height during the first World War and shortly after when large supplies of American pork were being sent to European countries. Hundreds of pigs were raised in Massachusetts 4-H projects during those years; but later interest in fat-stock projects died out for several reasons, some of which were lack of slaughterhouses and cold-storage facilities, scarcity of good foundation stock in New England, and a general swing to other types of club work.

Mr. Leland believes, however, that nearly every dairy farm can profitably keep a pig or two for home use; and if community cold-storage facilities develop in Massachusetts, he predicts considerable advance in the fat-stock projects. This too is noteworthy because of the greatly increased interest in some of the Eastern States in developing better living from the farm.

## New and Revised Film Strips Ready

■ The following film strips have been completed by the Extension Service in cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Bureaus of Animal Industry, Home Economics, and Plant Industry. The film strips may be purchased at the prices indicated from Photo-Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D. C., after first obtaining authorization from the United States Department of Agriculture. Blanks for this purpose will be supplied upon request to the Extension Service.

Series 511. *Guides to Buying Women's Hosiery*.—Illustrates the points to look for and things to avoid in buying women's hosiery. 68 frames, 60 cents.

Series 516. *The 4-H Club Leader*.—Furnishes suggestions to local volunteer 4-H Club leaders interested in developing, with the rural young people of their own communities, an

all-round rich satisfying 4-H Club program. This series is particularly suitable for conferences for local leaders. 75 frames, 60 cents.

Series 591. *Slip Covers for Upholstered Chairs*.—Illustrates the steps in making removable covers for two types of upholstered chairs. With slight changes the general method can be used to make slip covers for any piece of upholstered furniture—chairs of all kinds, chaise longues, love seats, divans, sofas, davenports, and studio couches. 65 frames, 55 cents.

Series 592. *Slip Covers for Straight Chairs*.—Illustrates the steps in making removable covers for the padded seats of straight chairs such as are often used in the dining room or at a desk, and slip covers for occasional chairs with an upholstered back and seat but open, unpadded arms. 65 frames, 55 cents.



# Agencies Cooperate for More Effective Education

**PHYLLIS RICHARDS, Home Demonstration Agent,  
Lincoln County, Wyo.**

■ Representatives of extension clubs, the Farm Security Administration, public health nurses, Associated Women, Red Cross, and relief societies in Star Valley, Lincoln County, Wyo., discussed the need of integrating the many different programs, thus proving to the people that they are all telling the same story. They also felt that through integration a larger percentage of the people would be reached more effectively.

A few figures showed the definite need for cooperative action. Six hundred women in Star Valley are enrolled in the relief society, an organization of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Two hundred and fifty of the 350 women enrolled in women's extension clubs are also enrolled in the relief society.

As a result of this conference of agencies, an educational program was sponsored at Afton, Wyo., on May 25, by the extension clubs and relief society organizations, with a special invitation extended to clients of other agencies. The number of women in attendance was more than 400.

Realizing that when Mrs. Homemaker left her home for the afternoon of May 25 she would expect to receive something worth while, the various agencies planned and worked cooperatively on a program that would be both educational and entertaining. The program included short reports or discussions on beautification, health problems, water in the home, and preparing women for womanhood. Director A. E. Bowman, of Laramie, was the guest speaker. Exhibits showed accomplishments, present projects, and needs in keeping with the topics discussed.

A 1-day balanced-diet exhibit was prepared

by the extension clubs and relief societies, as this has been a major subject of both groups. The exhibit included the complete menus for the day, giving amounts, food values, and costs.

An exhibit to show people the value of whole milk was prepared by the public health nurse. Reports show that too many low-income families are drinking skimmed milk in an attempt to increase their milk checks. Other health posters were made to show special problems.

A "Water-in-the-Home" exhibit acted as a forerunner to the demonstrations sponsored through the Extension Service in Lincoln County in June.

As an outbreak of typhoid fever in Star Valley has made many people aware of unsanitary conditions, the Farm Security Administration, which is cooperating in the sanitary projects, presented a moving picture of "before" and "after" conditions of sanitary projects.

The all-important beautification project was brought to the front also with discussions of what has been and what is being done. "Before" and "after" pictures were exhibited, and the general arrangement of flowers, decorations, and posters helped to make everyone beautification-conscious.

A half-hour musical program was arranged, and refreshments were served in the form of a tea.

Although this was the first major attempt for cooperative action, it is the hope of all agencies concerned that it will be only the beginning of a broader, stronger, and more effective educational program.

## Ranchers Improve Kansas Range Through AAA Plan

■ More and more Kansas ranchers are using the AAA range conservation program to conserve and build up their range. In 1936, the first year of the range program in Kansas, 595 ranchers participated, bringing 702,000 acres under the program. This has increased each year, and preliminary estimates indicate that 2,000 ranchers will probably be participating, bringing approximately 5,000,000 acres under the range program in 1940.

The practices carried out by Kansas

ranchers cover a wide field, but in the first 4 years emphasis has been given to deferred grazing, stock-water reservoirs, wells, and springs as a means of meeting the most serious local range problems.

The construction of stock-water reservoirs has been an important phase of water development carried out by Kansas ranchers. In 1936, 435 reservoirs were built. The following year the number built was 477; in 1938, a total of 431; and in 1939, 540 reservoirs were constructed.

In addition to the reservoirs built under the range program, about 1,999 were built under the agricultural conservation program in Kansas during 1938 and 1939.

Springs, seeps, and wells supplement reservoirs in bringing about better stock water distribution. Since 1936, Kansas ranchers have developed 517 springs and seeps and have drilled 665 wells.

The program has enabled most of the participating ranchers to reseed, naturally or artificially, a total of 1,291,345 acres of range land from 1937 through 1939. This is an area equal to approximately two average Kansas counties.

Under the 1937 program, 218 ranchers practiced deferred grazing on about 214,000 acres. By the following year, three times as much range land was permitted to reseed naturally, a total of about 635,000 acres. In 1939, about 435,271 acres were reseeded in this manner.

In addition to range reseeded under the range program, a large acreage of noncrop pasture land has been reseeded, either naturally or artificially, during the 4 years of the agricultural conservation program.

## "Fencing Week"

Handicapped by the lack of fencing, farmers in Lewis County, Ky., observed "fencing week" in August, reports County Agent Raymond E. Nute. Thousands of acres of grass and hay were available for expanding livestock raising, as a result of the agricultural conservation program. Many farmers had the livestock or were ready to purchase breeding herds and flocks, but they lacked good fencing.

Local merchants, the Production Credit Association, the Farm Security Administration, and other agencies cooperated in making "fencing week" a success.

■ MRS. LEONORE FULLER, who served with the Extension Service for 10 years as assistant to the Director of Extension Work, has recently returned to the Federal Extension Service to make a survey of handicrafts, rural arts, and home industries in extension work and to study the place they should occupy in the general extension program.

■ OSCAR W. MEIER, agricultural adviser of rural Electrification Administration, has been assigned to represent REA in extension work. Mr. Meier has been with REA for nearly 5 years and was with the Missouri Extension Service for the 10 years preceding. During 8 of these years he was county agent in St. Louis County where he developed an extensive program of rural electrification based on profitable usage.

■ ARLIE M. MUCKS, formerly coordinator in agricultural extension in Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant director in that State.



# Rural Churches Mobilize for Community Improvement

■ "Gentlemen, can you distinguish between economic, social, and spiritual welfare?" With this question from Chairman Arthur E. Holt, a panel of four rural ministers and four county agricultural agents was launched on a lively 2-hour discussion that concluded the 5-day program of the Sixth Annual Kentucky Rural Leadership Institute held at the University of Kentucky. The theme question of the entire program of forums and discussions was "What is a desirable rural life program for Kentucky?" and nowhere have rural pastors and other leaders come together for more earnest consideration of common problems.

Most rural communities have numerous agencies capable of making rich contributions to the comfort, prosperity, and satisfaction of the people if those agencies function as they should and if a spirit of cooperation prevails. Not least among those agencies are rural churches, some of which are more or less in a condition of "suspended animation." There are many that are not in such a condition. Some churches in villages and some standing in the open country, are full of vitality and are centers of community interest.

Several years ago Dr. W. D. Nicholls, head of the department of farm economics, Kentucky College of Agriculture, undertook a study of these live churches to learn the factors of their success. In most of these, he found an unusual pastor in charge, and in all he found the people genuinely interested in their churches and ready to assist other rural communities to bring their churches to positions of leadership, helpfulness, and inspiration. Furthermore, the studies made by the College of Agriculture indicated that a majority of the organization contacts of farm people in Kentucky were church contacts. The situation was studied at the same time by church leaders.

The net result was the formation in 1934 of the Kentucky Rural Church Council. This organization is entirely nondenominational. Its growth, though not rapid, has been steady. From the first it has cooperated closely with the Extension Service. It holds sectional and State-wide meetings to discuss problems of country churches and country communities and has been able to induce the ablest authorities on rural life to contribute their services. Denominational organizations have donated the services of their best talent, and workers in other fields have joined with enthusiasm.

By the time the organization was 3 years old it felt strong enough to request that it be made a regular section of the annual farm

and home convention at the university, and the rural-church section at once became one of the most popular and best attended sections of the convention.

The Rural Church Council has held six annual rural leadership institutes in cooperation with the Extension Service. This leadership institute lasts 5 days each year. Most of those attending are rural pastors; but many lay leaders participate, and this year a liberal sprinkling of State and county extension workers attended.

Speakers of first-rate ability and acknowledged competence are always on the program, and this accounts largely for the increasing interest. Through its cooperation with the Extension Service, the council was enabled to enlist the cooperation, at its institute that closed May 3, 1940, of the Division of Program Study and Discussion of the Department of Agriculture. Through Dr. Carl F. Taeusch, chief of this division, there was brought to the recent institute a faculty including, in addition to Dr. Taeusch, Dr. Henry C. Taylor of Chicago, director of the Farm Foundation; Dr. Arthur E. Holt of the Chicago Theological Seminary; Dr. J. B. Hutson, assistant administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; Prof. Edwin F. Buehrig of Indiana University; and Dr. David E. Lindstrom of the University of Illinois. The presidents of four Kentucky colleges and universities, several deans, and the best talent that the various religious denominations afford took part in the 5-day institute.

An enthusiastic layman expressed his desire to entertain the group at a midweek banquet, and more than 400 persons accepted his invitation. The principal address was delivered by Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal and author of note.

The president of the Rural Church Council is Rev. T. W. Spicer, pastor of a small church that stands in the open country but which is the real center of a most interesting community. The secretary is Dr. Howard W. Beers, in charge of the rural sociology section in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky.

From the meetings held by the Kentucky Rural Church Council the delegates return to their communities with both inspiration and useful ideas that they really put into effect. The council sponsors the observance of "Rural Church Sunday." This day is given attention by pastors, in increasing numbers each year, who devote their sermons for the occasion largely to a discussion of the greater service to rural communities that the

churches are giving. Each year the annual rural leadership institute follows soon after Rural Life Sunday.

The whole idea of integrating the work of rural churches with that of other agencies for rural-life improvement seemed to some at first to be visionary; but such misgivings quickly disappeared, and the validity of the idea has been fully demonstrated.

## 4-H Columnists

■ Several Georgia 4-H Club members are running successful columns in their local papers. For example, there is Jeanne Patterson who began her writing career as reporter for 4-H Echoes, the camp paper for the annual 4-H Club conference at Athens. This experience gave her a bigger idea, and she visited the editor of the Savannah Morning News, Sunday edition, to suggest a regular 4-H column called Chatham 4-H Chatter. He agreed to try it, and she has not missed a single Sunday edition since. The column keeps improving, and Jeanne has quite a reputation as a skillful young journalist. She is now studying journalism in college and majoring in home economics. She gets her news from every available source—the county agents, 4-H Club council members, and contest news as it is released.

Another promising young 4-H columnist, Hazel Carter, writes a column, "Forward 4-H," which appears each week in the Cobb County Times. This came about when Hazel talked to the Rotary Club on What 4-H Club Work Has Meant to Me. The publisher of the Cobb County Times was impressed and suggested that she write regularly for his paper. She writes about what is happening in the county along 4-H lines and also reports on State and National 4-H activities. She also writes of the achievements of her fellow club members. Hazel also finds time to act as secretary-treasurer of the county council.

As an outgrowth of this column another column has been started in the two other county papers, one by Faine Chambers, called 4-H Chatter, which appears weekly in the Marietta Daily Journal. Faine is State 4-H Club president and formerly president of the county council. Another column is the "4-H Work Shop" appearing in the Acworth Herald and written by Bill Davenport. Bill's column deals entirely with the merits of club work. All four young Georgia journalists are doing a good job.

■ One of the newer home demonstration developments which is being accorded enthusiastic interest in 19 Ohio counties is that of rural homemakers' chorus groups. At State fair this year chorus groups from 15 counties will give 15- to 20-minute concerts in the women's building each morning and afternoon.



# Have You Read?

**American Fertilizer Practices**, by H. R. Smalley, chief agronomist; Robert H. Engle, assistant agronomist; and Herbert Willett, economist, of the National Fertilizer Association, Washington, D. C., 128 pp. with supplementary tables. Washington, D. C., National Fertilizer Association, 1939.

This book is a report relating to the use of commercial plant food, and presenting information obtained by survey among 32,000 farmers in 35 States. It contains valuable information in regard to the consumption of fertilizer by crops and returns from the use of fertilizer based on farmers' estimates of increased yields. The effects of fertilizer on the quality of crops, and other benefits from the use of fertilizer are reported. An unusual feature is a survey of many farmers' opinions of such questions as "Would it pay to use more fertilizer?" and "The factors influencing choice of fertilizer."

Information is presented in regard to the amounts of fertilizer commonly used, methods of application that are being employed, trucking facilities of farmers using fertilizer, and the extent to which home mixing is practiced.—*J. F. Cox, extension agronomist.*

**A Handbook for Discussion Leaders on America's Problems as Affected by International Problems**, containing topics for discussion by Eugene Staley, Oscar B. Jesness, Donald C. Blaisdell, Frank G. Boudreau, M. D., Smith Simpson, John G. Winant, Anders Hedberg, Dudley Lee Harley, James T. Shotwell, Clark M. Eichelberger, Clarence Streit, Charles A. Beard, and Frederic W. Ganzert; and methods of discussion by Drummond Jones. New York, N. Y. Division of Intercourse and Education, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1940.

This handbook is prepared for use of discussion leaders and includes three phases: (1) A series of articles relating to different features of our international relationships, (2) suggestions for use of the contents of these articles through group discussion, and (3) attached to each article a selected list of references.

The key idea or theme is expressed in the opening article entitled "This Shrinking World." It is pointed out that the physical world is as big as ever; but speaking in human terms, it has changed. Cutting down the travel time for goods, ideas, or people has brought about greater interdependence. The production of agricultural products is exceedingly sensitive to a world market. How other nations think and act has an immediate vital influence upon the thinking and actions of people in the United States. The attitudes and understandings of our young people will have a part in rebuilding the world of tomorrow.

The different articles cover the problems of foreign trade and the farmer's interest in it, the problems of health, of social and economic justice, and of organization for peace.

If democracy is to be a part of the world order, the people will have to learn how to work out for themselves the solutions to their problems. Group discussion is an example of democracy in action. The subject matter in this handbook gives basis for such a discussion and points out group discussion procedures.—*Eugene Merritt, United States Department of Agriculture.*

## Potato Demonstrations

Potato producers of the Red River Valley, Minn., are watching with more than an idle curiosity a series of potato-disease test plots arranged by county agents in cooperation with farmers and with specialists at University Farm, St. Paul.

The plots are planted on farms in Clay, Norman, Wilkin, Becker, east Polk, and St. Louis Counties. They are especially planned to find out if the use of clean certified seed results in resistance to diseases like bacterial wilt, spindle tuber, and mosaic. Farmer co-operators have planted trial samples of both diseased and certified seed in their regular fields and care for them as they do ordinary table stock. Public tours of the trial plots enable farmers to follow the experiments closely.

A portable pressure spray outfit also demonstrates on these tours new potato-spraying materials that show promise of adding support to the fight against disease.

## ON THE CALENDAR

Twenty-fourth Annual Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 15-21.

Twenty-fifth Annual National Recreation Congress, Cleveland, Ohio, September 29-October 4.

National Dairy Show, Harrisburg, Pa., October 12-19.

American Country Life Association, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., November 7-9.

Fifty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Chicago, Ill., November 11-13.

Annual Meeting Future Farmers of America, Kansas City, Mo., November 11-14.

Annual Meeting of The National Grange, Syracuse, N. Y., November 13-21.

National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 30-December 6.

International Livestock Show, Chicago, Ill., December 1-8.

National Association of County Agents, Chicago, Ill., December 3-4.

Annual Meeting American Society of Agronomy, Chicago, Ill., December 4-6.

Annual Convention American Farm Bureau Federation, Baltimore, Md., December 9-12.

## Rural-Safety Conference Held in Washington

In an effort to extend to rural America the reduction in accident fatalities on streets and highways that has been reported in urban communities the past few years, a conference on rural safety was held at the Public Roads Administration in Washington, Tuesday, May 28, at the invitation of Thos. H. MacDonald, who presided. Mr. MacDonald is Commissioner of Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency, and Chairman of the Highway Education Board.

Nine organizations were represented by those participating in the conference, who were as follows: Fred C. Brenckman, the National Grange; Hugh Hall, American Farm Bureau Federation; S. P. Lyle, Extension Service, Department of Agriculture; Dr. Howard A. Dawson, Rural Service, National Education Association; Paul G. Hoffman, President, Automotive Safety Foundation; W. W. Mack, Chief Engineer, Delaware State Highway Department; Pyke Johnson, Executive Vice President, Automobile Manufacturers Association; Norman Damon, Director, Automotive Safety Foundation; Robert McMillen, Associate Editor, Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife; and Stephen James, Director, and Jerome Hardy of the Highway Education Board.

At the request of the chairman, Mr. James outlined briefly the work in rural safety education being done by numerous organizations, particularly the 4-H Clubs, the National Grange, and others.

S. P. Lyle outlined the Extension Service policy with regard to activities sponsored by other agencies and endorsed by the Extension Service. The policy, he said, is not to impose programs such as rural highway safety from Washington, but rather to encourage spontaneous expressions of interest in the given subject in the several States, often aided by the sponsoring organizations.

Support from farm groups for more adequate enforcement and funds for engineering purposes is the greatest need in rural safety, according to Paul Hoffman, president of the Automotive Safety Foundation. Farmers of the Nation, he said, should be brought through their national organizations to a realization that expenditures for adequate driver licensing and for well-built roads, are in the long run, productive investments. He urged farm organizations to support satisfactory enforcement and construction programs and emphasized the fact that a reduction in rural fatalities and accidents has in many instances been responsible for a decrease in insurance rates.

At the conclusion of the discussions Mr. MacDonald instructed Mr. James to confer with leaders of farm organizations and to request each group to designate a representative to work with the Board in the preparation of an adequate safety program.



## Better Health

It seems to me that there has been a noticeable change in the health consciousness of the rural people of Searcy County during the last 3 years. There is probably less malnutrition in the county than ever before. A great improvement has been made in health conditions due to rural families' having more vegetables and fruits on the table the year round. The pantry shelves of the home demonstration women in Searcy County are excellent examples of the desire to have healthy families throughout the year. In practically every home one finds at least enough vegetables for two meals daily. A variety of vegetables are usually found.

That better food habits are being followed by the rural people is indicated by the steady decline in dietary diseases. Pellagra is less prevalent than ever before. The people seem to be more eager to learn about balanced diets. Such habits as overcooking and using soda in vegetables have been discarded by most of the farm families since they have learned that through these methods the food value and vitamins are lost.—*Lurline Cagle, home demonstration agent, Searcy County, Ark.*

## More About Young People

Although we find the Extension Service Review inspiring and containing many ideas which we can use in our work, there is a line of work which is new to extension workers in Iowa and which I believe deserves some mention in the magazine. That is the work with young farm couples under 35 years of age. The activities center mostly around farm-management problems. We hope to discover and develop leadership among this group and to give them some assistance in their farm and home problems which otherwise might not be possible for another 10 years. Oftentimes, it has been my observation that we are working with people from 45 to 65 years of age and are not reaching the group under 35 years of age who could be so valuable to us.—*C. E. Judd, county agricultural agent, Boone County, Iowa.*

## Praises Conservation Camp

Eighty-seven Negro 4-H Club boys and girls, representing 25 counties of South Carolina, met in the second annual conservation camp, held during the week of July 8-12 in Orangeburg, S. C., at the State A. and M. College.

Conservation Through Land Use was the general theme. The speakers, using slides, motion pictures, and other illustrative material, forcefully demonstrated that the conservation of the soil, wildlife, forestry, and human resources are problems of youth. Pointing these problems out as responsibilities of young citizens of America, they chal-



**This is a place where agents are invited to express their ideas and opinions about anything which seems important to them. Those things which please, bother, or help one agent in his work are just the things which prove valuable to other agents.**

lenged the boys and girls to do something about them.

The lectures and discussions seemed to have developed real concern in the minds of clubsters over the possibility of annihilation of American civilization through complete collapse of our agricultural system unless we learn the essentials and practice the principles of conserving natural and human resources.

After noticing their enlightened eagerness, we are convinced that this training was of great value to our 4-H clubsters. They are better prepared to preach and to teach, by precept and example, the fundamentals of conservation practices, and to render their community, the State, and the Nation an indispensable service.—*R. W. Anderson, Negro county agricultural agent, Greenville County, S. C.*

## Determining the Needs

The program for home demonstration work has been distinctly influenced by two factors. First, all requests have been studied in the light of the question, "How can it be handled with a minimum of time and effort to satisfy a service request?" or "Can it be used to lead the questioner or community into more worth-while activity?" It must be recognized that the teacher in any field must start where the learners are and proceed with them, and such has been necessary in Camden County, N. J.

Human needs have been indicated in a number of ways. First, the needs have become evident through personal contact with the women. Close contact with members of the parent-teacher association (an organization of 12,000 members in Camden County), the federated women's clubs, and the American Association of University Women have shown clearly the need for

greater economic security, better family relationships, improved recreational facilities for young people, greater and more intelligent use of existing health facilities, and better housing and living conditions.

News stories have brought in many direct requests for budget information, and a number of these requests indicate a budget difficulty, especially with reference to food. The bulletins requested as a result of this newspaper publicity indicate a desire to feed families as well as possible on minimum amounts. Certainly this would indicate an economic problem.

Questions received for the homemakers' question box clearly indicate a desire by many women to improve their living conditions. Letters have been received from at least 100 persons asking how to rid premises of household pests and how to renovize walls and floors.

Another method that is aiding in the determination of what women really want and need is the survey being made by members of the board of directors of the Camden County Home Economics Extension Service. The survey is being made to acquire some factual material on "know your community," as well as to arouse board members to meet actual existing conditions.

Other human needs concerning family relationship problems have been expressed both intentionally and unintentionally in the parent-education classes conducted by the county extension service. Some mothers have asked for fundamental home economics work for their daughters as preparatory training for high-school courses.—*Mary M. Leaming, home demonstration agent, Camden County, N. J.*

## CONTENTS

	Page
The Test of Civilization — Editorial — <i>Reuben Brigham</i> .....	Inside front cover
4-H Better-Seed-Corn Project, Louisiana.....	109
Handicraft Goes Native in Tennessee.....	110
Farm and Home Progress Contest, North Carolina.....	111
Demonstrations, Music and Drama— <i>Kathleen Stephenson, West Virginia</i> .....	112
Rural Women Break Into Print— <i>Lora Farnsworth, Texas</i> .....	113
California Holds Its First 4-H All Star Conference.....	114
4-H Members Figure Close— <i>J. Robert Hall, Missouri</i> .....	114
4-H Introduces Profitable Sheep Raising— <i>H. J. Aase, Minnesota</i> .....	115
Better Living Through Better Farming, Alabama.....	116
A Farm Family Learns to Plan, Washington.....	117
Two Years of Club Work— <i>Donald Stiles, Vermont</i> .....	118
Home Demonstrations Develop an Able Leader— <i>Daisy Deane Williamson, New Hampshire</i> .....	119
Out of Depression on a 4-H Project, Minnesota.....	120
Farmers of 20 States Confer on Phosphate.....	121
New and Revised Film Strips Ready.....	121
Agencies Cooperate — <i>Phyllis Richards, Wyoming</i> .....	122
Ranchers Improved Kansas Range Through AAA Plan.....	122
Rural Churches Mobilize, Kentucky.....	123
4-H Columnists, Georgia.....	123



# AAA and SCS Aids for 4-H Clubs

Stimulate clear thinking on the part of 4-H Club Members - - Keep both leaders and members up to date on information concerning agricultural adjustment and soil conservation.

Write to Agricultural Adjustment Administration for the following publications:

**There Shall Be No Hunger Here**—a brief statement of the food and fiber supplies in the Ever-Normal Granary.

**Insured Harvests**—a description of the need for crop insurance and the benefits of crop insurance to farmers and business. FCI Info. 10.

**Insured Wheat Income**—the Kansas farmers' stake in Crop Insurance. Agricultural Conservation Programs Aim At—a brief statement of the objectives of the Agricultural Adjustment Program. G-99.

**Western Grass**—range erosion, the Range Conservation Program and a summary of the accomplishments of the Range Conservation Program. G-98.

**Helping Farm Families Help Themselves**—how the AAA program helps farmers improve their living conditions.

Single copies of not more than five of the following bulletins are available free from the Soil Conservation Service, except where otherwise noted:

**Conservation Farming Practices and Flood Control.** Misc. Pub. 253.

**Crops Against the Wind.** Farmers' Bulletin 1833. (Deals with the soil conservation program in the Southern Great Plains.)

**Erosion on Roads and Adjacent Lands.** Leaflet 164.

**The Land in Flood Control.** Misc. Pub. 331.

**An Outline of the Water Facilities Program.**

**Soil Conservation Districts for Erosion Control.** Misc. Pub. 293.

**Soil Defense of Range and Farm Lands in the Southwest.** Misc. Pub. 338.

**What Is Soil Erosion.** Misc. Pub. 286.

**To Hold This Soil.** Misc. Pub. 321. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 45 cents a copy.

Other useful material on land use and soil conservation can be obtained from the nearest regional or field office of the Soil Conservation Service

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

